

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY OMB:RBMANTEL:DD

APPROVED BY PM/SAS:RGREY

NEA/IRN - MR. MORTON

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R 211755Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 105991

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ROBERT MANTEL ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE
AND SALES

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 100184 (B) TEHRAN 3977

1. MANTEL IS EXAMINER FOR ALL NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA ASSISTANCE AND SALES PROGRAMS. BECAUSE THESE PROGRAMS IN IRAN AND NEIGHBORING STATES ARE UNDERTAKEN TO PROMOTE U.S. INTEREST IN STABILITY OF GULF AREA, IT IS IMPORTANT TO OMB FOR MANTEL TO HAVE AS COMPLETE PICTURE AS POSSIBLE OF ISSUES INVOLVED AND PERSPECTIVES OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. TO VISIT THE GULF AREA FOR THE PURPOSE OF GAINING A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLITICAL/SECURITY SITUATION IN RELATION TO U.S. INTERESTS AND IGNORE IRAN WOULD MAKE LITTLE SENSE. MANTEL HAS NOT VISITED IRAN IN THE PAST BECAUSE NO GRANT AND CREDIT IS BEING PROVIDED. BECAUSE OF RECENT EVENTS THAT HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REGION, A VISIT AT THIS TIME TO OBTAIN A FIRST-HAND VIEW IS DESIRABLE.

2. OMB DIRECTOR ASH MUST RESPOND TO GAO REPORT ON EX-IM INVOLVEMENT IN MILITARY SALES, IN PARTICULAR ON THE RATES
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OF INTEREST ON LOANS TO IRAN. MANTEL INTERESTED IN DISCU-

SING THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF GAO REPORT, PARTICULARLY
THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON (1) FMS VS COMMERCIAL SALES (2)
RECOUPMENT OF FMS ADMIN COSTS AND (3) GOI PAYMENT OF

ARMISH/MAAG ADMIN COSTS.

3. INTEREST IN TAFT RELATES PRIMARILY TO POTENTIAL APPLI-
CATION TO OTHER COUNTRIES IF PRESSURES FOR REDUCTIONS IN
TRADITIONAL MAAG AND MISSIONS FROM CONGRESS CONTINUE,
E.G., TO WHAT EXTENT ARE THE SUCCESSESS OR SHORTCOMINGS
OF THE TAFT CONCEPT THE RESULT OF FACTORS UNIQUE TO IRAN?

4. FOR THESE REASONS, OMB DESIRES MANTEL VISIT TEHRAN AS
PLANNED. APPRECIATE NUMBER OF RECENT VISITORS TO IRAN
THAT ACCOMPANY PROGRAM OF LARGE SIZE, SCOPE AND IMPORTANCE;
HOPE THAT TWO OR THREE WORKING DAYS IN EMBASSY AND MAAG
WILL NOT BE EXCESSIVE BURDEN. RUSH

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